

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ICA-11 SMS-01 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05
NSC-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00
TRSE-00 HA-05 L-03 /083 W
-----043337 121506Z /45
R 111138Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5427

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FOLLOWING LENINGRAD TELEGRAM DATED 09 AUG 78 SENT ACTION
TO MOSCOW BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LENINGRAD 02199

3.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, CASC, OEXC, US, UR
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INCIDENT INVOLVING IREX STUDENTS

REF: A. LENINGRAD 2068 B. STATE 198817
C. MOSCOW 18313

1. A FURTHER INCIDENT INVOLVING IREX STUDENTS IS DESCRIBED
PARA 3 BELOW. CONGEN HAS PREPARED EXPANDED VERSION OF PRO-
TEST LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN REFS A AND B TO INCLUDE PROTEST
ABOUT THIS AS WELL AS TREATMENT OF LEVIN-STANKEVICH. IF
MOSCOW CONCURS, EXPANDED PROTEST WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO
DIPLOMATIC AGENCY, LENINGRAD BY DPO AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY,
IN MY ABSENCE.

2. BEGIN TEXT. IT HAS JUST COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT
AMERICAN IREX GRANTEE BRIAN LEVIN-STANKEVICH AND HIS WIFE
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WERE HARASSED BY SOVIET BORDER AUTHORITIES AS THEY DEPARTED
THE SOVIET UNION BY TRAIN TO HELSINKI AROUND JUNE 20. WE
HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THESE EXCHANGE STUDENTS WERE
SEARCHED FOR ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS, INCLUDING A HUMIL-
IATING BODY SEARCH. THEIR TOOTHPASTE TUBES WERE SQUEEZED
OUT AND THEIR FACIAL SOAP WAS CUT OPEN. AS OSTENSIBLE
JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR ACTION, THE BORDER AUTHORITIES

ACCUSED MR. LEVIN-STANKEVICH OF HIDING SOMETHING, WHICH THEY DID NOT IDENTIFY.

3. IN ADDITION, SOVIET CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES AT LENINGRAD AIRPORT ON AUGUST 2 SEIZED FOUR BOOKS FROM TWO IREX GRANTEES, ROCHELLE RUTHCHILD AND JACQUELINE CUKIERMAN, WHO WERE ARRIVING TO BEGIN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM. THE BOOKS WERE INTENDED FOR THEIR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL USE. THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED REFUSED TO

IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND REFUSED TO GIVE RECEIPTS FOR THE CONFISCATED ITEMS, ALTHOUGH THESE WERE REQUESTED. MRS. RUTHCHILD WAS INFORMED THAT THE BOOKS TAKEN FROM HER, A JEWISH PRAYER BOOK AND AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, WOULD BE BURNED.

4. THE CONSULATE GENERAL CONSIDERS THIS SORT OF BEHAVIOR TO BE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. SUCH TREATMENT BY SOVIET OFFICIALS OF AMERICAN GRANTEES CAN ONLY CALL INTO QUESTION SOVIET COMMITMENT TO THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF OUR EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES.

5. WE EXPECT THAT THE BOOKS WHICH WERE CONFISCATED WILL BE RETURNED TO THEIR OWNERS AND THAT THE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE WILL BE SEVERELY REPRIMANDED AND STEPS TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT SUCH INCIDENTS DO NOT OCCUR AGAIN. END TEXT.
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6. FYI BOOKS CONFISCATED FROM CUKIERMAN WERE: PERED VOSKHODOM SOLNTSA BY MIKHAIL ZOSHCHENKO (CHEKHOV, NEW YORK, 1973) AND STAT'I I MATERIALY BY BORIS PIL'NJAK AND MIKHAIL ZOSHCHENKO, (LENINGRAD, ACADEMIA, 1928). BOTH ARE CLEARLY RELATED TO HER RESEARCH TOPIC WHICH CONCERNS YOUNG SOVIET WRITERS OF THE 1920S. THE NAME OF ZOSHCHENKO APPEARS PROMINENTLY IN HER PROJECT DESCRIPTION WHICH WAS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO THE SOVIET SIDE. CONGENOFF WOULD MAKE THIS POINT IN ORAL PRESENTATION.

7. GUIDANCE REQUESTED. BUCHANAN

UNQUOTE TOON

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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